

Register results

The following regulations have been issued by Federal agencies. They have both been previously summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER as proposals. The extent of consumer comment is reported when such information is available.

- Effective Dec. 10, **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** exempted containers in a multiunit retail food package from label requirements—as long as the outside package is properly labeled & individual containers are not sold separately. 113 gram (¼ pound) margarine packages would be one example. Each unit container must be labeled with the statement: "This Unit Not Labeled for Retail Sale." FDA received 16 comments on the proposal—including 4 from consumers & one from a consumer organization.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 10, 1975, page 57451; June 14, 1974, page 20885. CONSUMER REGISTER: Aug. 15, 1974.

- Beginning today, **Agriculture Dept.** increased food stamp allotments for all household sizes & at the same time increased maximum eligibility levels. Allotments are based on the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan, which contains more meat, poultry & fish & less dry beans, potatoes & grain products than the Economy Food Plan—the plan that coupons used to be based upon. Agriculture received comments from 1,958 persons, expressing over 5,200 comments. Far more commenters supported the proposal that was adopted than supported the other 2 proposals. (The other proposals considered age & sex composition of family units.)

Under the new allotments, coupons for a 4-person household will be increased from \$162 to \$166 a month—with other household sizes adjusted accordingly. Allotments are based on value of food required to feed a certain family of 4 as of August 1975, & allotments are adjusted twice a year to reflect changes in food prices. Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 1, 1975; Sept. 19, 1975, page 43404. CONSUMER REGISTER: Oct. 1, 1975. CONSUMER NEWS: July 1, 1975.

Federal Register briefings

Federal Register, the source of most information reported in CONSUMER REGISTER, will be the topic of 2 briefings conducted by the Office of the Federal Register on Jan. 21 & 22 in Washington.

The briefings are to take the mystery out of using the *Federal Register*. Sessions will cover the following areas:

- Brief history of the *Federal Register*.
- Difference between legislation & regulation.
- Introduction to finding aids of Office of the Federal Register.
- Relationship of the *Federal Register* & the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Important elements of a typical *Federal Register* document.

Reservations, by mail or telephone, are required. If additional briefings are necessary, a schedule will be announced. Also, if there is enough demand, it may be possible to arrange briefings outside the Washington area.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 19, page 58898. Mail reservations to Denise Normandin, Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, Washington, DC 20408. Or telephone 202-523-5240.

Clothes dryers

Jan. 25 is deadline for comments on **Commerce Dept's** proposal to issue a voluntary energy conservation specification for clothes dryers.

Proposed specification applies to "regular" or standard models. "Compact" or portable models will be added later.

Proposed specification describes procedures for testing & labeling. Labels will tell how much energy clothes dryers use & cost of energy per year. Commerce has considered using cost of energy per month & is interested in finding out which method—yearly or monthly—would be more useful to consumers, retailers & others. Data would be based on standard test conditions reflecting typical user conditions.

Energy labels already appear on room air conditioners & will soon be on refrigerators & freezers. Labeling for water heaters are in the proposal stage. Other appliances will be added later.

They include washing machines, dishwashers, television sets, electric ranges, central air conditioning & central heating.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 12, 1975, page 57819. Send comments to Assistant Secretary of Science & Technology, Commerce Dept., Room 3862, Washington, DC 20230.

Mopeds

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) wants comments on the safety of motorized bicycles (mopeds). Comments will be considered to help Federal, state & local governments develop regulations for the use of mopeds.

Because NHTSA says it has a lot to learn about mopeds, it is not setting a deadline for comments.

Mopeds are newcomers to the US, but they have been popular for some time in other countries. Most of them are made in France, Italy & Belgium; they cost between \$300 & \$450; & they weigh between 27 kilograms (60 pounds) & 45 kilograms (100 pounds).

Regulations vary with the 10 states that presently have moped laws. Some of them require drivers to be at least 14 years old, some require licenses & certain safety devices—&, according to the Motorized Bicycle Association, most states classify mopeds as bicycles. The remaining states have set up a separate classification of motorized bicycle.

NHTSA has come to some preliminary conclusions about mopeds:

- Although mopeds need pedal power to start the engine, they are kept going with a maximum 2 horsepower engine. They can travel no faster than 48 kilometers (30 miles) an hour. NHTSA is concerned about their use on high-speed highways.
- Throttle & front & rear brakes of a moped must be coordinated. NHTSA is concerned that more skills are needed to operate the moped than to operate a regular bicycle.
- Since NHTSA says a large proportion of motorcycle accidents take place at speeds between 32 kilometers (20 miles) per hour & 48 kilometers per hour, moped accident patterns appear to be similar to those of other classes of motorcycles rather than those of bicycles.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 28, 1975, page 55375. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590.

Consumer representation plans

Reminder: Feb. 24 is deadline for comments on proposed consumer representation plans that appeared in Nov. 26, 1975, *Federal Register*. Copies of the plans have been sent to subscribers, but to make sure consumers understand where to send comments, here are the addresses of the 17 agencies where comments should be sent. Additional (single) copies of the plans may be obtained by writing to Consumer Information Center, Dept. K, Pueblo, CO 81009.

AGRICULTURE DEPT.

Nancy Steorts
Room 225W, Agriculture Dept.
Washington, DC 20250
Telephone: 202-447-3165

COMMERCE DEPT.

Fred Prince
Room 5865, Commerce Dept.
Washington, DC 20230
Telephone: 202-967-2921

DEFENSE DEPT.

Robert W. Workman
Room 3D281, Defense Dept.
Washington, D.C. 20301
Telephone: 202-697-3402

HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE DEPT.

Howard Seltzer
Health, Education & Welfare Dept.
Washington, DC 20201
Telephone: 202-245-1957

HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPT.

Charles Fields
Office of Policy Development
Room 8106, Housing & Urban Development Dept.
Washington, DC 20410
Telephone: 202-755-5521

INTERIOR DEPT.

Charles Teague
Room 5116, Interior Dept.
Washington, DC 20240
Telephone: 202-343-2818

JUSTICE DEPT.

Ronald Gainer
Room 4236, Justice Dept.
Washington, DC 20035
Telephone: 202-739-4601

LABOR DEPT.

John W. Leslie
Room S-1032, Labor Dept.
Washington, DC 20212
Telephone: 202-523-7316

STATE DEPT.

Anne Cary
Room 7208, State Dept.
Washington, DC 20520
Telephone: 202-632-0549
TRANSPORTATION DEPT.
Ann Uccello
Room 9424, Transportation Dept.
Washington, DC 20590
Telephone: 202-426-4542

TREASURY DEPT.

David Lefeve
Room 1454, Main Treasury Dept.
Washington, DC 20220
Telephone: 202-964-8079
ENERGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Bart J. McGarry
8th Floor, Energy Research & Development Administration
Washington, DC 20545
Telephone 202-376-4074

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Walt Barber (PM223)
Room 3002, Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460
Telephone: 202-755-2265

FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION

Hazel Rollins
Room 4310, Federal Energy Administration
Washington, DC 20461
Telephone: 202-961-6055

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Robert J. Yock
Room 6127, General Services Administration
Washington, DC 20405
Telephone: 202-343-6119

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Nancy Lowe
Room 500, Small Business Administration
Washington, DC 20416
Telephone: 202-382-5027

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Errol D. Clark
Room 1120, Veterans Administration
Washington, DC 20420
Telephone: 202-389-2265

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 26, 1975, page 55092.

Prescription drug labels (continued)

March 8 is new deadline for comments on a petition submitted to **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** urging that written warning information appear on the labels of certain prescription drugs. Consumers Union asked that the comment period be extended.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 11, 1975, page 57705; Nov. 7, 1975, page 52075. CONSUMER REGISTER: Dec. 1, 1975. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Aspartame (continued)

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has decided that aspartame may not be sold until further tests are made on the safety of the sweetener. FDA had already approved its sale under certain conditions when some objections were raised on safety grounds. The manufacturer, G. D. Searle & Co., volunteered not to sell aspartame until further checks were made; it has not been put on the market at all.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 5, 1975. CONSUMER NEWS: May 15, 1975.

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciaccio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, & it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by **Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration**. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$50 a year & may be ordered from **Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office**, Washington, DC 20402. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal Agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front & back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)**.

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) _____

by (name of agency) _____

published in *Federal Register* on (date) _____ on (page) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(over)

Rate Register

Mail

• At CONSUMER NEWS' deadline, increases for first class postage (scheduled for Dec. 28) & special services fees (scheduled for Jan. 3) were delayed because a Federal judge said they were illegal. **Postal Service (PS)** appealed the ruling, & oral arguments were expected to take place Dec. 29. If the court rules in PS's favor, consumers will start paying the new rates immediately. However, at least for a day or two beyond Dec. 28, first class postage is costing 10¢ for 28 grams (one ounce). [See RATE REGISTER: Oct. 1 & Dec. 15.]

Planes

• Trans-World Airlines & American Airlines have asked **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** to approve a 1% air fare increase for domestic flights, effective Feb. 1. Eastern Airlines is planning to ask for a similar increase.

• On Dec. 15, Eastern Airlines & American Airlines asked CAB to approve 3.1% increases on routes between New York & Puerto Rico & the Virgin Islands. They also asked for a 1.1% increase on all other routes connecting the US mainland with Puerto Rico & the Virgin Islands. If approved, the increases will be effective Jan. 15.

• In order to minimize confusion, **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** is interpreting one-stop-inclusive tour charter (OTC) regulations. This new type of air charter service is designed mostly for travelers who want a vacation package at a single destination. (OTCs may have one or more stops.) [See RATE REGISTER: Aug 15 & May 1

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Street _____

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(over)

Rate Register

(continued)

for details on OTCs.) CAB's interpretation includes policies on hotel accommodations, optional overnight tours, minimum tour price, aircraft changes & charter contracts. For more details, consumers may wish to write to CAB, Washington, DC 20428. Ask for CAB press release 75-191.

• On Dec. 15, **Council on Wage & Price Stability (CWPS)** urged **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** to modify its air passenger load factor standard that it uses to set airline fares. CWPS said this modification would save consumers one billion dollars a year (about \$5 per consumer). CAB presently sets fares on the assumption that flights are on the average 55% full; CWPS suggested that standard be raised to at least 65%.

